INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROJECTS (R1 SMALL GRANTS)
FY 2011 FINAL REPORT

Project Title: **Baskett Butte Oak Savannah Restoration-Phase 2**

Station: Willamette Valley NWRC, Baskett Slough NWR, Dallas, OR

Contact Person: Jock Beall, Refuge Biologist (541) 757-7236

Project Description:

This project is a follow-up to the 2010 project that removed three invasive tree species across 85 acres on Baskett Butte at Baskett Slough NWR. Lack of fire in the understory has allowed invasive plant species to encroach and decrease historic native Oregon white oak/prairie habitat on Baskett Butte. The current project focused on approximately 50 acres that is within/adjacent to the 2010 treatment area by targeting and removing Douglas fir seedlings, Himalayan blackberry, poison oak, and tall oatgrass. Removal and treatment of these invasives will ensure the continuation of the historic savannah grassland. Stump grinding/slash piling burning is required prior to mechanical mowing treatments. Full sunlight exposure on the restoration site should result in eliminating shiny geranium, an invasive forest forb, from the site because it is sensitive to direct sunlight. Native upland prairie seed will be planted in open and disturbed ground as well as followed up by herbicide treatment of invasive woody vegetation and tall oatgrass when needed.

Invasive Species Targeted: Douglas fir seedlings, Himalayan blackberry, poison oak, and tall oatgrass

Project Completion Date or Estimated Completion Date: November 2012

Project Results:

Tall oatgrass was treated by weed wiping (specialized herbicide application) on all areas adjacent to the 2010 treatment units. Douglas fir saplings were cut and slashed in the restoration area. Mowing treatments of poison oak and blackberry (and subsequent herbicide treatments) are contingent upon both stump grinding and slash piling. Due to delays with contractors, neither (stump grinding or slash piling) was completed until November 2011. Therefore, mechanical mowing and additional spraying will be completed by contract in July or August 2012. Additional stump grinding has also been contracted. Slash piles in the treatment area will be burned by June 2012. Native seed has been acquired with plans to spread in the Fall 2012. The local Boy Scout troop volunteered to cleanup landings and in turn received firewood for their service project. This was also beneficial to the FWS because it reduced costs for slash cleanup and disposal from the project.

Number of Acres Treated: 55 acres

Number of Acres Inventoried and/or Mapped: N/A

Number of Acres Restored: N/A

Total Grant Amount: $25,000

Breakdown of Expenditures:

Category	**Total $ Spent**	**% of Total Grant**
Equipment/Supplies	$300	2
Chemical	$161	1
Biocontrol Agents	-------	------
Travel	-------	------
Biotech/Contractor Salary	$22,893	90
Restoration Materials	$700	3
Other (Describe)	$1000	4
TOTAL	$25,000	

Other (Describe):

Project funds were used to take pre and post treatment aerial photos of the restoration site from a remote controlled zeplin. This aerial aspect is beneficial for managers to evaluate and determine areas for additional treatment in the future.